

Date

Ms. Lisa Orgeron  
Assistant District Attorney  
17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court  
Parish of Lafourche  
P.O. Box 431  
Thibodaux, Louisiana 70302

**Re: Ethics Board Docket No. 2016-891**

Dear Ms. Orgeron:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its October 21, 2016 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion as to whether Jimmy Cantrelle, the son of James Cantrelle, Parish President of Lafourche Parish, can continue to loan heavy equipment to a contractor to use on a project for the Lafourche Parish Game and Fish Commission, a parish board, at no charge. You stated that the Lafourche Parish Game and Fish Commission is a parish board whose membership is appointed by the Lafourche Parish Council. The Game and Fish Commission is responsible for overseeing and managing the Lake Fields area in Lafourche Parish. The Game and Fish Commission issued bids for a job that was awarded to Andy Leboeuf. Mr. Leboeuf required a long reach excavator to perform his job. When it was time to perform the work, the equipment was not available for rental. Jimmy Cantrelle, the Parish President's son owns a long reach excavator and agreed to lend it to Mr. Leboeuf, free of charge, to use on the job with the Game and Fish Commission. This project is still ongoing.

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that the Code of Governmental Ethics, in general, would prohibit the immediate family member of a public servant from entering into transactions that are under the supervision or jurisdiction of the agency of the public servant. La. R.S. 42:1113A. However, the Code of Ethics provides an exception that allows an immediate family member of a public servant to donate the use of a movable to the public servant's agency. Therefore, the Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that Jimmy Cantrelle is not prohibited from continuing to donate the use of a long reach excavator to Mr. Leboeuf to utilize on a project for the Lafourche Parish Game and Fish Commission while Jimmy Cantrelle's father serves as the Parish President for Lafourche Parish. **La. R.S. 42:1123(30)** provides that a public servant, a legal entity in which he has a controlling interest, or a member of his immediate family may donate services, movable property, or funds to his agency.

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This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

**LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**

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Tracy M. Barker  
For the Board